

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1152

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, CI

SUBJECT: CHILE: VISIT OF UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL BRADFORD MORSE

1. SUMMARY: UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL BRADFORD MORSE IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES WITH WIDE RANGE OF GOC OFFICIALS AND OLD-LINE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE RIGHT AND CENTER. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS HAS NOW PUBLISHED NEWS THAT UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL WILL BE IN CHILE FROM FEB 23 TO FEB 28, AND THAT HE WILL SEE PRESIDENT PINOCHET, FONMIN CARVAJAL, AND OTHER TOP GOC OFFICIALS. THIS IS FIRST HIGH-LEVEL UN VISIT TO CHILE SINCE SEPT 11, 1973 COUP.

3. FROM ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IGLESIAS, WE LEARN THAT WITH GOC'S FULL APPROVAL MORSE WILL ALSO BE INTERVIEWING BROAD RANGE OF NON-MARXIST PERSONALITIES MORE OR LESS CRITICAL OF JUNTA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. THIS WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE OF PEACE (CONCERNED WITH WELFARE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES), INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS INCLUDING RECENT GOC CRITIC ORLANDO SAENZ, LEADING POLITICIANS OF THE RIGHT
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AND CENTER, AND BOTH PRESIDENT FREI AND CARDINAL SILVA.

THUS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS PAST PRACTICE, GOC WILL NOT SEEK TO RESTRICT CONTACTS OF ITS VISITOR IN THIS FRAMEWORK.

4. IGLESIAS STRESSES THAT MORSE WILL NOT BE IN CHILE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, OR TO MAKE STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE. NO PRESS CONFERENCE IS PLANNED.

5. MORSE WILL HAVE THREE OBJECTIVES. FIRST, HE WILL GATHER INFORMATION FOR UNSYG WALDHEIM, IN LIGHT LATTER'S PREROGATIVES UNDER 1974 UNGA RESOLUTION ON CHILE. SECOND, MORSE WILL EXPLORE AS INTENSELY AS POSSIBLE GOC'S VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. SHOULD GOC WISH TO USE UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL AS A MEANS OF MAKING SOME ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WOULD INDICATE MOVEMENT IN THIS AREA, THAT WOULD BE ALL TO THE GOOD, ACCORDING TO IGLESIAS. THIRD, MORSE WOULD DISCUSS DETAINEE PROBLEM, PROCEEDING FROM REQUEST BY CHILEAN UN DEL HUERTA TO WALDHEIM FOR SUPPORT FOR PRESENT CHILEAN EFFORTS TO DEPORT HUNDREDS OF DETAINEES. IGLESIAS' PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT THIS WOULD BE A MISTAKE; THAT CHILE SHOULD NOT EXPORT ITS POLITICAL DETAINEE PROBLEM; AND THAT POINT SHOULD BE MADE TO CHILEANS THAT ALL BUT THE MOST DANGEROUS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN WITHIN CHILE.

6. SHOULD GOC DECIDE ON ITS OWN TO MAKE OR TO FORECAST ANY MODIFICATION OF ITS DETAINEE OR STATE OF SIEGE POLICIES WHILE MORSE IS IN CHILE, IGLESIAS SPECULATES THAT THIS MIGHT BE DISCLOSED IN FORM OF A LETTER FROM PINOCHET TO WALDHEIM.

7. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECOGNIZE ADVANCE OF THE FOREGOING TO US INTEREST IN GOC HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW CLOSELY MORSE WILL ADHERE TO IGLESIAS' IDEAS, OR HOW RESPONSIVE GOC WILL BE. AMBASSADOR HAS ARRANGED VERY SMALL PRIVATE LUNCH WITH MORSE FEBRUARY 26 AND WILL SEEK FURTHER INFO.
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